



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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## Final 2009 Report

### CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 6

#### AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

**This will be the last weekly Crop Progress and condition Report for 2009.** We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this weekly report possible. Farmers made good progress harvesting corn early in the week and over the weekend, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Several corn fields were harvested over the weekend as soils finally froze hard enough to support equipment. Some elevators are at full capacity and are currently not accepting grain. Other activities during the week included cleaning and storing equipment, spreading fertilizer and lime, anhydrous ammonia applications, fall tillage, spreading manure and taking care of livestock.

#### FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 3.9 **days suitable for field work** during the week. Ninety-one percent of the **corn** crop has been **harvested** compared with 100 percent for both last year and the 5-year average. By area, 88 percent of the corn acreage has been harvested in the north, 91 percent in the central region and 97 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested corn continues to average about 21 percent.

Virtually all of the **soybean** acreage has been **harvested** at this point. Only late planted fields and wet areas that were worked around remain to be harvested.

Ninety-five percent of the **winter wheat** acreage has **emerged** compared with 100 percent last year and 99 percent for the 5-year average. Forty-six percent of the winter wheat acreage is reported to be in good to excellent **condition**. Some farmers are concerned with poor plant populations due to the cool, wet conditions after planting.

#### LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Livestock remain in mostly good condition with very little weather related stress being reported. Livestock producers are satisfied with hay supplies as they head into the winter months. Pastures and feedlots have been very muddy across the state but are currently frozen.

#### CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Percent				
Corn Harvested	91	84	100	100
Winter Wheat Emerged	95	78	100	99

#### CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Winter Wheat	2	4	48	42	4

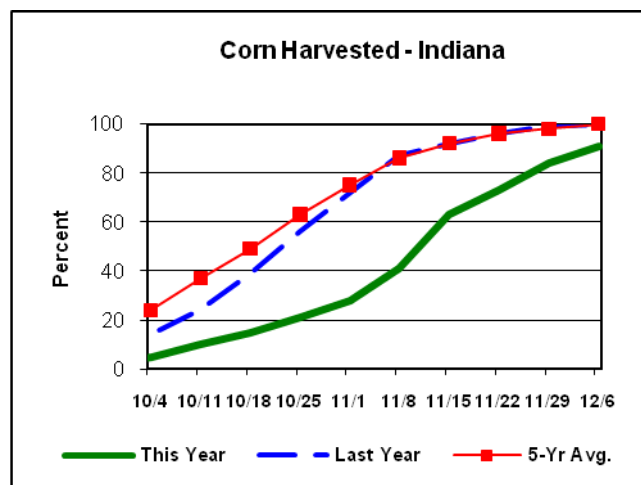
#### SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	NA
Short	1	2	NA
Adequate	67	71	NA
Surplus	32	27	NA
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	NA
Short	3	4	NA
Adequate	75	78	NA
Surplus	22	18	NA
<b>Days Suitable</b>	3.9	4.4	NA

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# Crop Progress



## Other Agricultural Comments And News

### Hybrid Selection: Where's the Beef?

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I can remember the excitement as a kid when the first Christmas mail-order catalogs would arrive in the mail from Sears, JC Penney, or Montgomery Ward. I think some of that excitement lingers today when the seed corn company sales literature arrives in the mail or when I attend a seed company field day in late August or early September and listen to the enthusiastic sales pitches. All the hopes of a record, bin-busting crop for next year are represented in those glossy multi-color pages that extol the virtues of the latest and greatest hybrids with every imaginable biotech trait that promise to beat last year's hybrid performance by 20 or more bushels per acre.

The reality of hybrid selection today is that pressure to place seed orders comes earlier and earlier than ever before. In the "old days", a guy would wait until January or February to place a seed order. By then, you would have had the time to peruse yield reports from your local land-grant university variety trials or those from the seed companies to identify the hybrids you wanted to purchase. Today, more and more sales pressure occurs before the current year's variety trials have even been harvested. What's a guy to do?

Documented CONSISTENCY in yield performance is still the key to success in selecting hybrids that will perform well in your farming operation. Sales pitches at field days or in farm magazine advertisements should serve only to heighten your awareness of seed companies, their hybrid traits, or specific hybrids and should NOT take the place of meaningful yield data from well-designed hybrid performance trials.

When you are pressured to choose this hybrid or that one because the sales rep assures you it will perform well, don't hesitate to ask for the performance data that

backs up the recommendation. Be like the little old lady in the 1984 Wendy's™ hamburger TV commercial who demands to know "Where's the beef?"

Before you lock next year's hybrid choices in place, take the time to peruse the results of variety trials from the previous year. Except for the newest of hybrids, performance data from the previous year are useful for identifying CONSISTENT performers for your operation next year.

**How do you identify CONSISTENT performers that will likely perform well for you? The secret lies in looking for trials that evaluate hybrids over multiple locations. Multiple testing locations in a single year represent possible weather patterns your farm may encounter in the future. Weather variability influences hybrid performance more than any other variable, because weather interacts with most of the other yield limiting factors. If a hybrid performs CONSISTENTLY well over many sites (i.e., weather patterns), then it will likely perform well on your farm in the future.**

**(Please, re-read the last paragraph. Its message is the most important one in this article!)**

Most university hybrid performance programs evaluate hybrids over multiple locations plus multiple years within select maturity zones. Several third-party testing groups also evaluate hybrids over multiple sites. Seed companies obviously evaluate hybrids over hundreds if not thousands of sites each year. Seek out summaries over many locations and avoid concentrating on single site results.

For multiple site trials where the data have been statistically analyzed, CONSISTENT performers are mostly likely found within the upper group of similar-yielding hybrids as determined by a trial's L.S.D. value.

**(Continued on Back Page)**

# Weather Information Table

Week Ending Sunday December 6, 2009

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation					
								April 1, 2009 thru					
	Air							December 6, 2009					
	Temperature				Precip.	4in		Precipitation			GDD Base	50°F	
							Soil						
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
<b>Northwest (1)</b>													
Chalmers_5W	52	15	33	-3	0.90	2		30.67	+2.45	101	2693	-534	
Francesville	53	20	33	+2	0.52	2		30.38	+1.58	92	2634	-306	
Valparaiso_AP_I	54	20	35	+2	0.19	2		26.62	-4.68	93	2812	-139	
Wanatah	55	19	34	+3	0.30	2	40	31.71	+1.91	105	2499	-295	
Winamac	53	20	33	+2	0.56	2	38	26.36	-2.44	91	2718	-222	
<b>North Central(2)</b>													
Plymouth	53	21	35	+2	0.41	3		28.35	-1.21	115	2642	-459	
South_Bend	53	21	34	+2	0.23	3		30.61	+1.32	95	2811	-94	
Young_America	53	18	33	-1	1.06	2		29.33	+0.96	70	2741	-297	
<b>Northeast (3)</b>													
Fort_Wayne	55	19	36	+3	0.71	2		28.49	+2.71	95	2955	-99	
Kendallville	57	22	37	+4	0.70	4		24.89	-2.01	111	2969	+94	
<b>West Central(4)</b>													
Greencastle	52	12	32	-4	0.68	2		40.09	+7.66	103	2745	-728	
Perrysville	55	15	33	-1	0.66	2	39	41.24	+11.24	99	3084	-129	
Spencer_Ag	54	14	34	-3	0.92	2		43.19	+10.63	96	3073	-164	
Terre_Haute_AFB	53	17	34	-3	0.75	2		29.14	-1.59	81	3362	-85	
W_Lafayette_6NW	54	17	34	+1	0.86	2	41	34.62	+6.32	94	2912	-127	
<b>Central (5)</b>													
Eagle_Creek_AP	53	19	35	-1	0.62	2		36.05	+7.30	93	3379	-30	
Greenfield	53	16	34	-2	0.73	2		41.88	+10.45	98	2970	-302	
Indianapolis_AP	54	20	36	+0	0.66	2		39.44	+10.69	90	3519	+110	
Indianapolis_SE	53	15	34	-3	0.70	2		42.31	+12.84	94	2968	-436	
Tipton_Ag	53	17	34	+2	0.59	2	44	34.19	+4.51	98	2784	-153	
<b>East Central(6)</b>													
Farmland	56	16	34	+2	0.75	2	39	26.62	-1.36	91	2849	-14	
New_Castle	55	14	34	-1	0.80	3		35.72	+5.54	93	2744	-193	
<b>Southwest (7)</b>													
Evansville	57	18	37	-4	0.99	2		39.07	+9.31	85	4046	+49	
Freelandville	54	19	35	-2	1.05	2		47.77	+17.30	90	3468	-100	
Shoals_8S	55	13	33	-5	0.68	2		45.50	+12.22	87	3124	-338	
Stendal	58	20	38	-1	0.87	3		48.65	+15.79	86	3941	+200	
Vincennes_5NE	55	17	35	-3	1.15	2	44	46.10	+15.63	96	3622	+54	
<b>South Central(8)</b>													
Leavenworth	56	17	36	-2	0.43	2		49.38	+15.91	118	3499	+60	
Oolitic	55	13	34	-4	0.54	2	37	40.31	+8.52	103	3184	-101	
Tell_City	58	21	39	-2	0.67	2		40.27	+6.71	81	3841	-47	
<b>Southeast (9)</b>													
Brookville	58	15	36	+1	0.38	2		34.59	+4.26	88	3220	+116	
Greensburg	56	16	35	-1	0.58	2		41.65	+10.86	90	3395	+205	
Seymour	56	16	35	-3	0.51	2		44.97	+14.49	81	3102	-176	

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DFN = Departure From Normal.  
GDD = Growing Degree Days.  
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

For more weather information, visit [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com)  
or call 1-888-798-9955.

## Hybrid Selection: Where's the Beef? (Continued)

For multiple site trials for which statistical analysis of the data has not been performed, you can identify CONSISTENT performers by evaluating hybrid performance relative to the average yield of the trial or relative to the maximum yielding hybrid in a trial.

For example, look for those hybrids that CONSISTENTLY yield 5% above the average yield of trials in which they are entered. If the trial average yield is 180 bpa, look for hybrids yielding 189 bpa or greater ( $180 \times 1.05$ ).

Another way to look for CONSISTENT performers is to identify hybrids that CONSISTENTLY yield at least 90% of the maximum yielding hybrid in a trial. If the highest yield in a trial is 225 bpa, look for hybrids that yield 203 bpa or greater ( $225 \times 0.90$ ).

Remember, the key factor in choosing hybrids for your farming operation next year is documented performance against a range of competitors, not simply specific head-to-head comparisons. Once you have identified a group of otherwise CONSISTENT high-yielding hybrids, further filter them for traits important to your situation. For example, corn following corn demands hybrids with superior resistance to important foliar diseases such as gray leaf spot or northern corn leaf blight.

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